



## ***21<sup>st</sup> Century Research and Evaluations, Inc.***

*1030 E. Lafayette Street, Suite #7*

*Tallahassee, FL 32301*

*850-656-8400*

*Fax 850-577-1741*

*rnelson@21-century.cc*

July 13, 2011

Hon. Julius Genachowski, Chairman  
Hon. Michael Copps, Commissioner  
Hon. Robert McDowell, Commissioner  
Hon. Meredith Attwell Baker, Commissioner  
Hon. Mignon Clyburn, Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: AT & T – T-Mobile Merger, WT Docket No. 11-65

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

As an African American who is motivated to enhance the lives of other African Americans, I respectfully encourage the Commission to consider the impact this merger will have on communities of color and rural communities that are currently struggling to achieve digital equality.

AT & T has, throughout its existence, been a leader in promoting broadband adoption — in particular adoption by the underserved. With the inevitable extension of AT&T's diverse employment practices, the merger will stimulate improved job quality, compensation, and diversity within the digital sector.

The AT & T/T-Mobile merger will provide more jobs for African Americans in the wireless industry. Due to the fact that AT&T is the only union wireless company, the prospective merger will ensure that all employees have a collective voice in the workplace to improve wages, benefits, and working conditions. The merger will also provide T-Mobile employees the choice to join the union and have their voices heard.

Statistics show that there are more African Americans than white Americans who own cell phones and use their mobile devices to connect to the Internet; however, only half of African Americans subscribe to broadband, in part, because it remains unavailable in many rural communities. African Americans own a vested interest in the approval of this merger—with it follows a revived broadband infrastructure for underserved communities that have historically suffered from lackluster connectivity speeds. Rural communities and communities of color will have the opportunity to obtain high-speed internet service, improve their wireless services — and once connected — be offered a broader array of cell phone functions, email, and social networking services.

My faith in AT&T is not blind. AT&T owns a strong track record of diversity in the workplace that will continue once the merger is approved, and AT&T expands its workforce and supplier diversity.

In an effort to ensure rural communities receive the benefits that AT&T is promising, I look forward to the FCC's examination of the comments. If AT&T's history is any reflection of what their future with T-Mobile will bring, rural and African American communities alike will definitely benefit.

Respectfully,

*Randy Nelson, Ph.D.*

Randy Nelson, Ph.D.  
President, 21 Century Research & Evaluations, Inc.